

Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Original) A lubricant composition for use in a rotary vane compressor has a base oil component that comprises an alkylbenzene as a major component thereof and a polyol ester as a minor component thereof.
2. (Original) A lubricant composition according to claim 1 in which the base oil component comprises at least 55% by weight of alkylbenzene and at most 45% by weight of a polyol ester; more preferably between 55% and 75% by weight of alkylbenzene and between 45% and 25% by weight of polyol ester and, especially, between 60% and 75% by weight of alkylbenzene and between 45% and 25% by weight of polyol ester.
3. (Currently amended) A lubricant composition according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ in which the base oil component consists essentially of alkylbenzene and polyol ester.
4. (Currently amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the alkylbenzene component is selected from the group consisting of mono-alkylbenzenes, di-alkylbenzenes, di-phenylalkanes and mixtures thereof.
5. (Currently amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the alkylbenzene component has a molecular distribution in which at least 80%, and more especially, 100% of the molecular weight fraction is greater than 200; more particularly, at least 75% of the molecular weight fraction is greater than 300; and especially at least 40%, more particularly 50%, of the molecular weight fraction is greater than 350.
6. (Currently amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the alkylbenzene component has a molecular distribution in which at

least 70% of the molecular weight fraction is below 500, more especially at least 50% of the molecular weight fraction is below 450.

7. (Currently amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the alkylbenzene component has a kinematic viscosity of at least 10 cSt, and more preferably at least 25 cSt, but not more than 70 cSt at 40°C and a kinematic viscosity of at least 2 cSt, and more preferably at least 3.5 cSt, but not more than 10 cSt at 100°C.
8. (Currently amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the alkylbenzene component has a pour point of less than -10°C more preferably less than -20°C and particularly less than -30°C.
9. (Currently amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the alkylbenzene component has an acid number of less than 0.04 mgKOH/g.
10. (Currently amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the polyol ester component comprises at least one polyol ester that is a reaction product of a polyhydric alcohol and a monobasic carboxylic acid.
11. (Currently amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the polyol ester component is at least one polyol ester that is a reaction product of one or more alcohols selected from neopentylglycol (NPG), trimethylolpropane (TMP) and pentaerythritol (PE) and dimers and trimers thereof and one or more acids selected from linear and/or branched C₅ to C₁₈ acids, particularly C₅ to C₁₃ acids and more particularly C₅ to C₉ acids.

12. (Currently amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the polyol ester component has a kinematic viscosity of at least 5 cSt but not more than 40 cSt and more preferably less than 25 cSt at 40°C and a kinematic viscosity of at least 1.5 cSt but not more than 5 cSt and more preferably less than 4 cSt, at 100°C.

13. (Currently amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the polyol ester component has a pour point of less than -40°C, more preferably less than -50°C and particularly less than -55°C.

14. (Currently amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the polyol ester component has an acid number of less than 0.04 mgKOH/g.

15. (Currently amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 which has a kinematic viscosity of at least 5 cSt but not more than 40 cSt and more preferably less than 25 cSt at 40°C and a kinematic viscosity of at least 2 cSt but not more than 6 cSt and more preferably less than 5 cSt, at 100°C.

16. (Currently amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 which has a pour point of not more than -40°C, preferably not more than -45°C and especially not more than -50°C.

17. (Currently amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 which comprises one or more lubricant additives selected from antioxidants, anti-wear additives, extreme pressure agents, acid scavengers, foaming agents, anti-foaming agents, stabilisers, surfactants, viscosity index improvers, corrosion inhibitors, metal deactivators or passivators, lubricity improvers or oiliness agents and friction modifiers at levels between 0.0001 and 20 weight%, more preferably between 0.01 and 10 weight% more especially between 0.01 and 5 weight% based on the weight of the base oil component.

18. (Currently amended) The use in a rotary vane compressor of a lubricant composition as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~.

19. (Currently amended) A method of lubricating a rotary vane compressor comprises utilising a lubricant composition as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~.

20. (Currently amended) A rotary vane compressor charged with a lubricant composition as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~.

21. (Currently amended) A refrigeration system comprising a rotary vane compressor, said system being charged with a refrigerant comprising a chlorine-free, fluorine-containing heat transfer fluid and a lubricant composition as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~.

22. (Original) A refrigeration system according to claim 21 in which the refrigerant is a hydrofluorocarbon and more preferably is selected from the group comprising difluoromethane (R-32), trifluoromethane (R-23), 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethane (R- 134), 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane (R-134a), 1,1,1-trifluoroethane (R-143a), 1,1-difluoroethane (R-152a) pentafluoroethane (R-125) and hexafluoroethane (R- 116) and mixtures of two or more thereof.

23. (Original) A refrigeration system according to claim 22 in which the refrigerant is selected from the group comprising R-32, R-116, R125, R134a, R-143a and mixtures thereof.

24. (Currently amended) In claim 18 ~~any of claims 18 to 23~~, the rotary vane compressor ~~being~~ is a fixed-vane compressor.